

With the M.O.H.'s Compliments,

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of
Health

For the Year 1896.



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Ashby-de-la-Zouch Urban District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT
FOR 1896.

March 22nd, 1897.

TO THE ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1896, with tables showing the Births, Deaths, and Cases of Infectious illness which occurred during the whole of that period.

The number of births registered was 151, or a rate of 33·2 per thousand of the population against 33 per thousand in the previous year. The number of deaths was 73, or a mortality at the rate of 16 per thousand against 93, or a rate of 20·5 in 1895. Out of this number 17 were infants under one year of age. Eighteen deaths occurred at the Union Workhouse, leaving the rest of the district with a mortality of 55, or a rate 12·1 per thousand, which may be considered eminently satisfactory when compared

with the rate in previous years, and in Urban Districts of similar size. No death happened from any of the notifiable Zymotic diseases, but there was one returned as due to Whooping Cough, 23 or nearly a third of the whole number of deaths occurred at the age of 65 and upwards. In the analysis of the causes of death there is but one that calls for any particular notice, and that is the group of respiratory diseases—18 deaths having been registered under this head, and chiefly among infants during the month of December, when the climatic conditions were so unfavourable. The number of cases of Infectious disease notified was 21, namely, 7 Scarlatina, 3 Diphtheria, 3 Enteric Fever, and 8 Erysipelas. These occurred pretty evenly distributed amongst the different months, and there was nothing in the nature of an Epidemic during any part of the year. Four of the Scarlatina cases occurred in one house, on the extreme boundary of the district, were very mild in character, and never spread beyond the house they were in. In the month of January in company with your Surveyor, I had an interview at the Local Government Board Offices in London, with the Architect and one of the Medical Officers of the Board, relative to our plans for building an Isolation Hospital. The objections raised at this interview to the proposed site of the hospital as being too near the town and to the size of the building being too small to meet the requirements of the Local Government Board, were discussed at the next Meeting of your Council, and the question postponed. I trust however, it will not be postponed for long, as this is a matter which should be decided without much further delay.

During the year I made a considerable number of inspections of dwellings and premises with the object of finding out insanitary conditions, and where necessary gave instructions to remedy any defects in the sanitary arrangements. In this connection I would say that it is much to be deplored that tenants taking newly built houses should too hurriedly occupy them, as living in new houses, that have often not been completely finished, and properly aired, is anything but conducive to health. I feel bound to express myself on this point, as it has repeatedly come under my notice that people, and especially children have suffered in consequence. I also visited the various Cowsheds and Dairies, also Slaughter houses and Knackers' yards. In reference to the latter, I made a special inspection, in company with your Surveyor, and presented a detailed report to your Council, making suggestions in regard to their position, and advising that they should not be located nearer than a certain distance to any habitation. On the adoption of this suggestion by the Council steps were taken to carry it out without delay, with the result that these trades are now conducted with the least possible offence.

The water supply during a great portion of the year, had, as in previous years, to be intermittent, owing to deficiency in quantity, and it is very unsatisfactory that during the period of the year, namely, the summer months, when a continuous supply is most needed, it should be impossible to obtain it under present conditions and it is to be hoped that it will not be long before the district will be provided with an unbroken supply.

The Sewerage scheme in contemplation is much needed, as that side of the town which is nearest to the Sewage Farm, has by extension during recent years, become more thickly populated, and the other drawbacks of its position discussed by your Council render the scheme a very desirable one, and one that will confer a great boon on the Urban District.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

CHAS. R. WILLIAMS.



TABLE A.

TABLE OF

DEATHS during the Year 1896, in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Urban District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Ashby Urban District, (excluding Union Workhouse):—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	15
1 and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	6
5 „ „ 15 „	...	...	...	...	...	2
15 „ „ 25 „	...	...	...	...	...	3
25 „ „ 65 „	...	...	...	...	...	18
65 years and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	11

Union Workhouse:—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	2
25 and under 65 years	...	...	...	...	...	4
65 years and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	12

At all ages 73

CAUSES OF DEATH.

*Ashby Urban District,
(excluding Union Workhouse):—*

	Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.
Whooping Cough	1	0
Phthisis	1	2
Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	10	4
Heart Disease	0	1
Influenza...	1	0
Injuries	1	1
All other Diseases	8	25

Union Workhouse:—

Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	0	4
Heart Disease	0	2
All other Diseases	1	11

23
50

73

TABLE B.

TABLE OF

POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of New Cases of INFECTIOUS SICKNESS coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the Year 1896, in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Urban District; classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

POPULATION.						
Census, 1891	...	...	...	...	...	4,535
BIRTHS.						
Registered Births	...	...	...	...	...	151

NEW CASES of SICKNESS in each Locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.

<i>Ashby Urban District,</i> (excluding Union Workhouse):—					Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.
Scarlatina	...	...	...	...	2	5
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	0	3
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	0	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	0	6
<i>Union Workhouse:—</i>						
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	0	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	0	2
					2	19
					21	

Number of such CASES removed from their homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.

<i>Union Workhouse:</i>					Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	0	1
Erysipelas	0	2
					0	3
					3	

No Isolation Hospital in District, except at Union Workhouse.

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